

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

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USLO PEKING

S E C R E T SEOUL 1318

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KS CG

SUBJECT: ENGULU VISIT TO SEOUL

REF: SEOUL 1301

1. UNDER FOREIGN MINISTER'S INSTRUCTIONS, MOFA CHIEF MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICAN BUREAU LHO YOUNG CHAN CALLED IN POLITICAL COUNSELOR FEBRUARY 24 TO REVIEW ENGULU VISIT TO DATE AND REQUEST USG ADVICE REGARDING POSSIBLE KOREAN MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE. CONFIRMING SCHEDULE PARA 1, REF A, LHO SAID THAT FOLLOWING ENGULU'S CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER CHOI KYU HA AND PRESIDENT PARK FEBRUARY 24 AND 25, IT WAS TENTATIVELY PLANNED TO HAVE ENGULU CALL AGAIN ON FOREIGN MINISTER MORNING, FEBRUARY 26 AT WHICH TIME ROKG HOPED TO PROVIDE AT LEAST PRELIMINARY ANSWERS TO ENGULU'S REQUEST FOR ROK MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

2. IN SUMMARY, ENGULU HAS REQUESTED FOUR TYPES OF ASSISTANCE FROM KOREA: (A) "HEAVY AND SOME LIGHT MILITARY EQUIPMENT", (B) TRAINING FOR ZAIRIAN MILITARY FORCES, (C) \$5-10 MILLION LONG-TERM COMMERCIAL CREDIT, AND (D) VACCINES. LIST OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT, TRAINING NEEDS, AND VACCINES REQUESTED BEING FOR-
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WARDED SEPTEL. LHO NOTED THAT ZAIRE ALSO WISHED TO SEND MILITARY

MISSION TO ROK IN NEAR FUTURE. REGARDING COMMERCIAL CREDIT, LHO SAID MOFA WAS NOT SURE WHAT IT WOULD BE USED FOR, NOR IN FACT WHETHER IT WOULD EVEN BE USED TO PURCHASE KOREAN EXPORTS. ENGULU HAS TOLD KOREANS THAT CREDIT REQUIREMENT STEMS FROM ZAIRIAN INABILITY EXPORT ITS COPPER AS RESULT ANGOLAN AFFAIR.

3. LHO SAID THAT BEFORE RESPONDING TO ENGULU KOREANS WOULD APPRECIATE FRANK USG ADVICE AS TO HOW THEY SHOULD RESPOND. MORE SPECIFICALLY, MOFA WOULD APPRECIATE: (A) USG ESTIMATE OF CURRENT SITUATION IN ZAIRE, PARTICULARLY AS IT IS AFFECTED BY ANGOLAN SITUATION, AND OUR ESTIMATE REGARDING ZAIRE-NORTH KOREAN RELATIONS; (B) WHAT ZAIRIAN FUTURE REACTION LIABLE TO BE; (C) HOW US ITSELF RESPONDING TO ZAIRIAN REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE; (D) US ESTIMATE PRESENT ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT STABILITY IN BOTH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TERMS. LHO ALSO ASKED ON INFORMAL BASIS, EMPHASIZING THAT IT NOT A REQUEST, WHETHER US WOULD FIND IT FEASIBLE AND POSSIBLE TO USE KOREA AS A CHANNEL FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT SALES TRANSFERS TO ZAIRE, AND WHETHER IF ROKG DECIDED TO GIVE AID TO ZAIRE COULD IT GIVE EQUIPMENT PROVIDED TO KOREA UNDER US MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

5. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED: ROKS ARE REACTING CAUTIOUSLY BUT OBVIOUSLY ARE INTERESTED IN OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVING RELATIONSHIP WITH ZAIRE AFFORDED BY DPRK'S SUPPORT FOR MPLA AND CONSEQUENT DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS ON NORTH KOREAN/ZAIRIAN RELATIONS. TO ASSIST ROK FOREIGN MINISTER IN PROVIDING PROMPT RESPONSE TO ENGULU WHILE HE IS HERE WOULD APPRECIATE ANSWERS TO ABOVE QUESTIONS BY FEBRUARY 25 IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.
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